

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES MARCH 2003



In Most Western Counties, Unemployment Rates Increase in February

February Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **La Crosse Metropolitan Area** was unchanged in February at 4.1 percent. The February 2003 rate was also unchanged as compared to the La Crosse Metro rate for February 2002.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Western Wisconsin increased 0.1 of a percentage point in February, to 6.7 percent. However, the Western Wisconsin unadjusted rate fell by 0.5 percentage points compared to last February, on the strength of strong year-to-year decreases in unadjusted unemployment rates in Monroe, Buffalo, Jackson and Juneau Counties.

tan areas last month, the majority of counties across Wisconsin had lower unemployment than they did one year ago," said DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman.

The highest estimated county unemployment rate for the state was reported in Juneau County, followed by Marquette, Rusk and Menominee counties. The unemployment rate for Juneau was 11.8 percent, while Marquette was 11.5 percent, Rusk was 11.2 percent, and Menominee was 11.0 percent. The State's lowest estimated unemployment rate was Dane County at 3.1 percent, followed by Ozaukee County at 4.4 percent and Waukesha County at 4.9 percent.

The City of Racine had the highest unemployment rate of any Wisconsin jurisdictions for which the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides estimates. The City of Racine's unemployment rate was estimated at 12.6 percent.

Among Wisconsin's eleven Metropolitan Statistical Areas, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates were indicative of

Statewide

Fifty-nine of the state's 72 counties had lower unemployment rates than one year ago, reflecting the lower unemployment rate for the state reported for February 2003, according to information released today by the Department of Workforce Development. In the month of February, which traditionally has the highest unemployment rate of the year in Wisconsin, sixty counties had higher unemployment rates than they had in January, based on the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics "local area unemployment statistics" estimates. Seven counties were unchanged and five had lower estimates for February than they had for January. February is the month for which Wisconsin's unemployment rates are generally the highest of the year.

"It is encouraging to see that, despite the historically normal increases in unemployment in many counties and metropoli-

the mixed results in February's employment figures. Four metro areas showed lower seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for February than they had had in January. Four metro areas had higher rates in February than they had had in January, and three were unchanged. In general, counties with a strong presence of durable goods manufacturing had slightly higher rates, while areas with a stronger presence of trade and services had slightly lower or unchanged rates. The southeastern portion of the State continues to experience the most difficult labor markets.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: Feb 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	75,100	3,105.5	145,857
Employment	72,100	2,940.6	137,408
Unemployment	3,100	164.9	8,450
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.3%	5.8%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	-1,100	4.3	19
Employment	-1,000	6.8	(128)
Unemployment	0	-2.4	148
Unemployment rate	0.0%	-0.1%	0.1%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	700	67.8	1,347
Employment	700	75.5	958
Unemployment	100	-7.6	390
Unemployment rate	0.0%	-0.4%	0.2%
<i>Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.</i>			
<i>* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota</i>			

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

February 2003	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,540	10,440	11,620	10,980	63,680	21,000	16,350	14,420	156,010	92,330	3,081,190
Employed	7,040	9,600	10,800	9,690	60,400	19,680	15,050	13,370	145,630	85,220	2,882,280
Unemployed	500	840	820	1,290	3,270	1,320	1,300	1,050	10,380	7,110	198,920
Unemployment Rate	6.7%	8.0%	7.1%	11.7%	5.1%	6.3%	8.0%	7.2%	6.7%	7.7%	6.5%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	4,800	7,700	7,900	8,800	71,400	17,600	13,300	8,300	139,900	68,500	2,732,100
Total Private	3,900	6,500	5,000	6,600	61,400	13,200	11,000	6,100	113,700	52,300	2,307,600
Goods Producing	400	1,600	1,400	2,400	11,800	4,100	5,700	1,100	28,400	16,600	620,800
Service Producing	4,400	6,100	6,600	6,400	59,600	13,600	7,600	7,200	111,500	51,900	2,111,300
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	130	200	570	210	2,300	460	190	170	4,200	1,900	104,700
Manufacturing	300	1,400	800	2,200	9,400	3,600	5,500	900	24,100	14,700	516,100
Trade	500	2,000	900	1,100	12,900	2,500	1,500	1,700	23,000	10,100	422,100
Transportation & Utilities	1,800	200	700	400	2,200	1,600	500	300	7,700	5,500	307,600
Financial Activities	160	200	230	240	3,700	610	330	370	5,800	2,100	152,700
Education and Health Services	600	1,100	600	1,200	13,100	1,700	1,100	1,500	20,700	7,600	362,400
Leisure & Hospitality	400	800	800	800	6,700	1,400	800	600	12,500	5,800	223,600
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	600	300	500	11,000	1,300	1,000	600	15,500	4,500	937,400
Total Government	900	1,150	2,960	2,190	10,000	4,460	2,350	2,180	26,200	16,200	424,500
Federal	140	70	60	260	500	2,180	120	110	3,440	2,940	28,900
State	20	200	440	570	1,900	240	30	30	3,430	1,530	101,400
Local	740	880	2,460	1,360	7,600	2,030	2,200	2,040	19,330	11,730	294,200
Change from one month ago	January 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	-20	-150	-140	-10	-100	-20	-30	-60	-500	-400	76,500
Employed	-30	-230	-130	-60	-200	100	-30	-80	-600	-500	36,400
Unemployed	20	80	0	50	100	-120	-10	20	100	0	40,100
Unemployment rate(%)	0.3	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.1	-0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.2
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	0	-140	-50	0	-200	180	60	30	-100	100	10,800
Percent change NFWS from last month	0.1%	-1.8%	-0.7%	0.0%	-0.3%	1.0%	0.5%	0.4%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.4%
Total Private	10	-130	0	0	-300	100	30	-10	-400	-100	-9,700
Goods Producing	0	-30	0	0	-300	100	20	10	-300	0	-8,300
Service Producing	10	-110	0	0	100	100	50	30	100	0	19,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	0	-10	-20	-10	-200	-20	-10	0	-300	-100	-3,800
Manufacturing	0	-30	0	0	-200	90	20	10	-100	100	-4,500
Trade	-10	-70	0	0	0	40	-10	0	-100	-100	-3,600
Transportation & Utilities	20	-10	20	-10	0	30	40	-10	100	100	-3,500
Financial Activities	0	0	-10	0	0	-10	0	0	0	0	-500
Education and Health Services	0	-20	0	0	300	0	-10	-20	300	0	4,400
Leisure & Hospitality	-10	-20	-10	0	-100	-20	-10	10	-200	-100	-2,200
Svcs	10	10	10	0	-200	-20	10	0	-200	0	4,400
Total Government	0	-10	-20	10	100	80	30	40	200	100	20,500
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	20	-10	0	0	0	0
State	0	0	0	0	-100	0	0	0	-100	0	9,500
Local	0	-20	-10	10	200	60	40	40	300	100	11,000
Change from one year ago	February 2002										
Civilian Labor Force**	-170	420	130	-20	900	480	1,030	410	3,100	2,300	68,500
Employed	-100	410	250	150	800	680	1,060	540	3,800	3,000	74,800
Unemployed	-80	10	-120	-170	0	-190	-20	-130	-700	-700	-6,300
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.8	-0.3	-1.1	-1.5	-0.1	-1.1	-0.6	-1.2	-0.5	-1.0	-0.3
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	-120	220	40	-40	-400	350	770	270	1,100	1,500	14,300
Percent change NFWS from last year	-2.4%	2.9%	0.6%	-0.4%	-0.6%	2.0%	6.1%	3.4%	0.8%	2.2%	0.5%
Total Private	-90	160	0	0	1,000	600	700	200	2,500	1,500	11,300
Goods Producing	10	-200	0	-300	-100	200	400	0	100	200	-14,300
Service Producing	-130	410	0	300	-300	100	400	200	1,000	1,300	28,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-10	0	0	-20	-100	40	-10	-20	-100	0	-4,300
Manufacturing	20	-200	0	-300	-100	210	410	40	100	200	-10,000
Trade	-40	140	0	0	200	140	80	130	600	500	-500
Transportation & Utilities	-60	10	0	50	0	0	30	30	0	0	-2,300
Financial Activities	0	10	0	10	100	20	30	20	100	100	1,000
Education and Health Services	-10	50	0	100	600	110	30	0	900	300	10,100
Leisure & Hospitality	10	140	100	200	0	120	170	30	700	700	2,900
Svcs	-10	10	-100	0	200	-60	-40	-50	0	-300	21,600
Total Government	-30	60	20	0	-1,400	-230	70	100	-1,400	0	3,000
Federal	10	-10	0	20	-70	-110	0	0	-200	-100	-700
State	0	10	30	0	-1,020	-10	0	0	-1,000	0	1,300
Local	-30	60	-10	-10	-310	-110	70	100	-200	100	2,400

* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>

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